Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Currently Amended) An article, including instructions residing on a computer-readable medium, the instructions causing a computer to:

receive discovery data collected from a discoverable network device by two or more ~~plurality of network devices by a first plurality of~~ discovery agents ~~registered during installation~~;

~~receive discovery data collected from a network device by an additional discovery agent registered during an upgrade;~~

aggregate said discovery data ~~collected from a second plurality of discovery agents, the second plurality of discovery agents including the first plurality of discovery agents and the additional discovery agent~~;

generate a relationship file characterizing relationships among ~~network~~ discoverable network devices identified by the two or more ~~second plurality of~~ discovery agents;

coalesce the discovery data in a software file comprising a discovery document, said discovery data including two or more duplicate data entries, wherein each of the

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duplicate entries relates to a discoverable network device identified by the two or more discovery agents; and

remove all but one of the duplicate data entries from the discovery document.

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to receive discovery data comprise instructions that cause the computer to call said two or more ~~second plurality of~~ discovery agents from an agent directory.

19.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to aggregate said data comprise instructions that cause the computer to call two or more aggregator agents listed in an agent directory.

20.   (Previously presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the agent directory comprises a plurality of Extensible Markup Language (XML) files.

21.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to remove ~~the~~

~~second duplicate data entry~~ <u>all but one of the duplicate entries</u> comprise instructions that cause the computer to:

identify two or more agents responsible for generating the two or more duplicate data entries, each agent having a priority value;

compare the priority values of the two or more agents;

identify a first agent having a highest priority, said first agent responsible for generating a first duplicate data entry in the two or more duplicate data entries; and

remove all but the first duplicate data entry.

22. (Original) The article of claim 21, wherein the two or more agents are discovery agents.

23. (Original) The article of claim 21, wherein the two or more agents are aggregator agents.

24. (Original) The article of claim 16, wherein the discovery document is an Extensible Markup Language (XML) file.

25. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to receive discovery data comprise instructions that cause the computer to receive discovery data collected from <u>two or more</u> ~~a plurality of~~

<u>discoverable</u> network devices by said second <u>two or more</u>

~~plurality of~~ discovery agents.

26.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 25, further comprising instructions that cause the computer to:

store the discovery document in a discovery database; and

generate a key for each discovered <u>discoverable</u> network device in the discovery document.

27-30.   (Cancelled)